



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MAYOR STEWART AND NBPD ANNOUNCE CAR BURGLARY TASK FORCE ***“Operation: Arrest, Release, Repeat” Results in Crime Reduction***

NEW BRITAIN – On Wednesday, Mayor Erin Stewart and New Britain Police Chief Christopher Chute gathered to announce the creation and early results of a new police department task force dedicated to crack down on car break-in burglaries in the City of New Britain. The task force is made up of over 20 officers, detectives, and police department supervisors. The task force is aimed at car break-in burglaries, not car thefts.

“The numbers don’t lie,” said Mayor Stewart. “We have seen an increase in larcenies from motor vehicles this year; everyone is talking about it in every neighborhood. The time to act is now, and we are committed to allocating additional resources to addressing this problem.”

The City has reported 64 motor vehicle break-ins in August, 68 in September, and 43 in October.

This activity is not limited to New Britain. Surrounding towns throughout central Connecticut have expressed similar upticks in this kind of criminal activity as well.

Chief Chute had some tips for residents, “Be sure to keep your car doors locked, do not leave anything valuable in your car, especially visible valuable items, and if you have the means to, install cameras.” Chief Chute added the Ring camera systems and social media posts have been a big help to the task force in identifying and ultimately arresting the criminals.

Mayor Stewart continued, “The people committing these crimes are opportunists, they are looking for unlocked doors and easy targets, please keep your doors locked and take your valuables inside with you.”

The New Britain Police Department has been successful in arresting numerous individuals related to these crimes. Since the Task Force was formed in August, the City has seen a 30% reduction in the amount of car break-ins.

“The NBPd has done their job, now we need the court to do theirs,” said Mayor Stewart. “With courts shut down since the dawn of the pandemic, we’ve fallen into dangerous territory where these criminals are released back to the streets with no expectation of facing immediate consequences. The courts need to prosecute.”

“Now that the courts are back open we are hopeful that the system will start doing its job once again and get these criminals off our streets,” said Chief Chute.

Recent arrests in Operation Arrest, Release, Repeat include:

- Gabriel Cochran of Maple Street was arrested on 09/10/20 on the strength of a valid Arrest Warrant stemming from an incident where he was operating a stolen motor vehicle. At the time

Cochran was in possession of a stolen firearm. Cochran is also a suspect in multiple Stolen MV complaints and Larceny from MV complaints.

- Gerard Hines of Winter Street has multiple arrests stemming from Stolen Motor Vehicle complaints. Hines was most recently taken into custody for Breach of Peace 2nd Degree and Interfering with Police after Officers responded to a disturbance complaint where Hines was determined to be involved.
- Isaiah Rodriguez of East Street was taken into custody in late September following a brief foot pursuit after Officers observed him exiting a stolen motor vehicle in the Glen Street/Monroe Street area. Rodriguez has been arrested multiple times for Stolen MV and Larceny from MV related complaints.

If anyone has any tips relating to car burglaries in your area please utilize the anonymous tip line at 860-826-3199.

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